(3) क्षतिग्रस्त सस्यगत क्षेत्र (50 प्रतिशत से अधिक) 25.00 लाख हैक्टेयर

(ii) महाराष्ट्र :

(1) प्रभावित जिलों की संख्या 19

(2) प्रभावित गांवों की संख्या (50 प्रतिशत से अधिक) 12607

(3) प्रभावित जनसंख्या 141.47 लाख

(iii) गुजरात :

(1) प्रभावित जिलों की संख्या 16

(2) प्रभावित गांवों की संख्या लगभग 10,000

(ग) जी हां ।

(घ) केन्द्रीय दल शीघ्र ही मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात का दौरा करेंगे ताकि क्षति की मात्रा तथा सूखे की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए आवश्यक केन्द्रीय सहायता का जायजा लिया जा सके ।

यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि राज्यों के ज्ञापन और आपदा राहत निधि को ध्यान में रखते हुए महाराष्ट्र को किसी प्रकार की अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

Coconut Cultivation in Kerala

597. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coconut cultivation is being encouraged by Government at par with other Oil Seeds ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal for promotion and development of Coconut cultivation in Kerala during 1992-93; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India have declared Coconut as an oilseed of tree origin and also introduced a system of declaring annual support price for copra. As Coconut is a perennial plantation crop different from other oils eeds which are annual crops, the programmes for its development and the mode of execution are also distinct.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have earmarked an outlay of Rs. 900 lakhs for promotion and development of coconut during 1992-93. This outlay consists of allocation of funds to varieus coconut growing States including Kerala. The major programmes envisaged for implementation during 1992-93 are as follows :—

1. Production and distribution of planting matrials.
2. Expansion of area under coconut.
3. Coconut Technology Development Centre for improving the post harvest processing and marketing of coconut.
4. Improving productivity of coconut in India.
5. Setting up of Publicity and Propaganda units.
6. Integrated control of major pests and diseases.
7. Surveys and evaluation schemes.
8. Infrastructure Development.

केन्द्रीय भंडार में गेहूं का स्टाक

598. श्री राघवजी : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 31 दिसम्बर, 1991 की स्थिति के अनुसार केन्द्रीय भंडार में गेहूं का कितना स्टाक था ;

(ख) क्या गेहूं के मल्यों में भारी वृद्धि को देखते हुए सरकार ने खुले बाजार में सस्ती दरों पर बिक्री करने के लिए अतिरिक्त मात्रा में गेहूं जारी किया है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरूण गोगोई) : (क) 52.77 लाख मीटरी टन ।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Shortage of wheat

599. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of wheat for public distribution system as well as for sale in the open market;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to import wheat to control the prices ; and

(c) what action Government have taken against hoarders to bring out the concealed stocks to the open market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir, The stocks of wheat are adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of the public distribution system and open market sale. However, these stocks are less than the stocking limits prescribed.

(b) The Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to improve the availability of wheat and to contain open market prices.

(c) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been taking action against persons found to be indulging in hoarding and other mal-practices in respect of essential commodities under the various Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other relevant legislations. The States have been recently requested to step up de-hoarding operations. During the months of January and February, 1992 (up to 14-2-1992), 14-179 raids were made, 501 persons arrested 393 prosecuted and goods worth Rs. 6004.14 lakhs were seized.

BICP recommendations on FCI

600. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what are the recommendations of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) regarding improvement in the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government on these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The main recommendations include suggestions for cost minimisation and consumer satisfaction, greater delegation and accountability of regional offices, effecting economy in staff and administration, improving storage facilities and their utilisation, and the like for achieving better operational efficiency. These also include measures for controlling increasing trend of foodgrain losses during storage and transit, rationalising the working of labour. It has brought together findings on actual costs of FCI, viability of its operations as compared with relevant parameters in the market. The recommendations are aimed at improving operational efficiency and reduction of costs.

(b) The Government constituted and Empowered Committee to examine the report. The Empowered Committee has given its recommendations which are in the process of finalisation by the Government.

Stock of Wheat and Rice

601. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is sufficient stock of wheat and rice for domestic consumption in the country ;

(b) if so, the resons for increase in the price of these commodities; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The estimated stock of foodgrains (rice-wheat and coarsegrains) with public agencies as on 1st February, 1992 inclusive of stocks reported to be held by the State Governments, were of the order of 14·455 million tonnes, which are considered adequate to meet the requirements of the public distribution system.

(b) The rise in prices could be mainly attributed to the general inflationary conditions and holding back of stocks by farmers/traders with a view to sell the same at higher prices later.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check increase in prices include open market sale of wheat by the FCI, increase in the allocation and supply of rice and wheat for the Public Distribution System and under-taking dehoarding operations.

It has also been decided to import one million tonnes of wheat.